

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Meeting Public Hearing
November 16, 2020

A Mayor and Council Public Hearing was held in the Mayor & Council Chambers at the Laurel Town Hall, on November 16, 2020 beginning at 7:09 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members: Randy Lee, Jeff Hill, Jonathan Kellam, Cheryl Martin via Vast Conferencing, and Robin Fisher-Cornish via Vast Conferencing. Also, in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Public Works Director James Foskey via Vast Conferencing, Chief Dan Wright, Alderman Kelly Pettyjohn via Vast Conferencing, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. Please note the town offers a Vast Tel-Conferencing System virtual option to adhere to the state guidelines.

Mayor Shwed explained the purpose of the Public Hearing is to listen to the presentation regarding the Community Development Block Grant Funding. Mr. Whaley explained the funding is funded by the Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) where both Kent and Sussex County apply for the funding. The municipalities apply for the CDBG Funding to help restore and rehabilitate low income housing. Mr. Whaley advised there is a community waiting list and homeowners must meet the necessary requirements to qualify for the funding. Mr. Whaley stated in order to receive funding a household must be below the 80% of median income, under \$42,500. A 2-person household must have a median income below \$48,000 and a 4-person household must have a median income under \$60,700 to receive CDBG Funding. Mr. Whaley advised in the last 10 years the Town of Laurel has received \$687,000 in funding, which has resulted to 56 rehabilitated households. During this current year, the Town of Laurel has received \$122,500 of CDBG Funding. Mr. Whaley advised they're 19 households currently on the town's waiting list. Mr. Whaley stated the purpose of holding a public hearing is for him to explain the program to Mayor and Council and to answer any questions pertaining the funding from Mayor & Council and citizens. Mr. Whaley inquired if the Mayor and Council or residents had any questions regarding the funding. Councilman Kellam stated Mr. Whaley is retiring and thanked him for his diligent work and he has been a tremendous asset to the town.

With there being no further questions or comments, Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Whaley for his presentation.

The public hearing adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary